

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 11 and 12 are pending, with Claim 11 being independent. Claims 13 through 15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended.

Claims 11 through 15 were rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1 and 2 of parent U.S. Patent No. 6,246,520 (Iizuka) in view of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 3-235927 ("JP '927"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,013,339 (Ando, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the filing concurrently herewith of a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to Iizuka.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that a full appreciation of these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this application. Moreover, this Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel S. Glueck". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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